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Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of July 21, 2003 to July 25, 2003

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Retail sales ($ millions)	May			Canadian retail sales edged up 0.3% in May, to $26.2 billion. Increased sales in general merchandise stores (+2.3%), the clothing sector (+2.0%), and the furniture sector (+1.9%) counteracted a 2.2% decline in the food sector to create the first sales gain in three months. Seven provinces recorded monthly losses, led by New Brunswick (-2.5%), Prince Edward Island (-1.8%) and Alberta (-1.5%). Ontario (+1.6%) and Quebéc (+0.6%) led all provinces in monthly gains.
Alberta	3,205	-1.5%	2.8%	
Canada	26,243	0.3%	4.2%	
Consumer Price Index (1992=100)	June			Canada's annual inflation rate edged up 0.1% from May and 2.6% annually. Increases in the prices of natural gas (+8.6%), traveller accommodation (+8.2%) and gasoline prices (+1.2%) offset declines in the prices of clothing and footwear (-2.3%) as well as declines in the prices of automotive vehicle purchases (-1.5%). Alberta finished June with the CPI at 4.8% annually, leading all provinces in monthly gains with a 0.5% increase. Seven provinces experienced a monthly decrease in the index, led by Prince Edward Island (-0.3%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (-0.3%).
Alberta	130.1	0.5%	4.8%	
Canada	122.1	0.1%	2.6%	
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	June			The Composite Leading Index rose 0.3% in June. Monthly increases in the S&P/TSX stock price index (+1.2%), the real money supply (M1) (+0.8%), and business and personal services employment (+0.7%) helped the index post its seventh consecutive increase. Offsetting some of the monthly gains were new orders in the manufacturing sector (-0.6%) and average manufacturing workweek hours (-0.3%).
	181.5	0.3%	2.3%	

Economics & Public Finance
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